

THE לְפָנַי SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Notes on Judaea Capta

Israel Liberata

POUND to become SHEKEL

Study Tour of Israel

The First Jewish Coin?

Ancient Money-Changers

Inauguration of 2 New Clubs

Fifteen State Medals Discontinued

Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins

Shalom Coin in Gold

Shalom Commemorative — Oversubscribed

Aleph Beth Page; Judaeian Jottings

Book Review; Reprints and Others

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the President, the Government,
and the People of Israel on the
occasion of Israel's 5729th Anniversary—
21st Independence Day.*



The SHEKEL

ל'פ"ו

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to report the opening of three new clubs since our last publication of "The Shekel". These are in Boston, Philadelphia and the California area. The AINA membership now totals about 2,600. The details of these openings will be found in the Club News of this edition. One of the factors that amazed our Israeli hosts was the size of our membership. As you know, one purpose of the Israel Tour was to find items of numismatic interest for the benefit of our readers. After reviewing the collections at the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel Aviv and Municipal Museum in Haifa, we have decided to publish a series of articles concerning numismatic items contained in museums throughout the world.

In addition we feel we have established a warm and hopefully a lasting relationship with the Israel Numismatic Society. We have already received several articles from Israel. These will be published in later issues of The Shekel.

The Officers and the Board of Directors of AINA deeply feel the loss of Nathan Goldman, our secretary-treasurer. His time and services were given freely and generously to AINA and "The Shekel".

Morris Bram, President

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN



THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM... By the time this issue is in the hands of our readers, the American branch of your editorial staff will have met its internationally famous counterpart in Israel. One of the purposes in making this trip was to seek better ways to serve our readers.

Our meetings with Yitzhak Avni, director general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. and his staff, Messrs. Brin and Ashbel, Executives of the Bank of Israel, Arie Kindler, director of the renowned Kadman Numismatic Museum, and an entire morning with our hosts, the members of the famous Israel Numismatic Society proved immensely beneficial.

On the American side, A.I.N.A. was honored with the presence of the internationally known numismatists Richard S. Yeoman, Chester Krause, publisher of Krause Publications' "Numismatic News", and Russell Rulau, editor of "World Coins" and "Numismatic Scrapbook".

We were overwhelmed with the hospitality accorded us by the Israel government in arranging our introduction to the mayors of the coin — medal cities. They in turn acted as both hosts and guides in introducing their cities. Perhaps NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM will not be beyond our perspective.

Nathan Sobel, Editor

A.I.N.A. EDITORIAL

WE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN SILENT. A wealth of misinformation has recently been circulated in leading newspapers and numismatic publications, so much so, that we feel the necessity of commenting at this time. **WE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN SILENT.** Our policy has been one of publishing full reliable reports based on information supplied by the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. Certain commercial interests, preferring to see their names in print, have adopted a policy of undisguised sensationalism. Incorrect mintage figures and the like have no place in numismatics. Indeed, they can only harm our hobby. These spurious announcements are readily recognizable since they are introduced by isolated individuals rather than by legitimate government agencies. The Shekel exists only for the benefit of its readers. Our obligation is the distribution of first hand reliable information based on reports supplied directly by the Israel government.

The Man Who Led Israel to Victory



**The Late
Prime Minister
Levi Eshkol**

LEVI ESHKOL was one of that treasured band of idealists, men and women of the second aliyah, whose faith and sacrifice transformed the neglected land of Palestine into the Jewish State of Israel.

Born Levi Shkolnik, in the Ukraine, one of nine children, of a prosperous Jewish family, the 19-year-old lad came to Palestine in 1913 to join the pioneers of the first aliyah in the communal settlement of Petah Tikvah. There he tilled the soil, dug drainage ditches and took his turn as watchman or shomer, until he enlisted in the Jewish Legion, as did two other heroic figures whom destiny was also to choose for the highest honors the Jewish State could bestow — Itzhak Ben Zvi and David Ben Gurion. After the war, Mr. Eshkol's exceptional organizational ability drew him into agricultural and labor executive posts in the growing yishuv. At the same time, he helped found the communal settlement of Deganiah Bet. One of the top jobs he held in pre-State Israel was that of Secretary of Mapai, which later became Israel's largest single party and the dominant factor in its successive government coalitions.

In 1949 when the stream of Jewish immigration became a torrent, his administrative abilities were coopted by the Jewish Agency as Director of its Settlement Department, and within a year, as its Treasurer. In these offices he was instrumental in organizing hundreds of farm settlements for immigrants and laid the foundation for the development of vast agricultural industrial complexes like Lachish, as well as Israel's new development towns.

Later he returned to government, first as Minister of Agriculture and then as Minister of Finance, where he worked brilliantly for eleven long years.

On June 26, 1963 — he reached the climax of his career as Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. In these capacities he helped build Israel's Defense Forces and the brilliant General Staff that was to win the great military victory which has gone down in history as the Six-Day War.

The physical work performed by his hands, the contributions of his mind, and the spiritual power of his deep convictions, all continuously expressed over a span of more than half a century in the land, mark him as one of the very small group of truly historic personalities who may be said to have created the Israel of today and laid the foundation for the promise of tomorrow.

In February this year the Prime Minister suddenly passed away in his sleep. May He rest in peace.

Highlights of the Israel Study Tour

by Wilma Thompson



Tour members pose at Kennedy before takeoff.

The moment the heavy glass doors of the departure room of El Al Airlines swung shut behind us at Kennedy International Airport, the arrangements extended to special guests became apparent. It was March 10, and the AINA tour to Israel was beginning.

After checking in, we were escorted to the fashionable Golden Door restaurant at the International Departure Center for cocktails. The elegant party was sponsored by our ever gracious traveling companion and guide, Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner, on behalf of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. Just before departure the tour members posed for a friendly photo.

Our first morning in Tel Aviv was an exciting moment. Although a fashion show was arranged for the ladies, most of us preferred the famous Museum Haaretz, actually a group of museums, one being the Kadman Numismatic Museum. The permanent exhibition in the museum is designed to illustrate both the history of money and the history of Israel as both are reflected in coins.

We were welcomed by Arie Kindler, Director of the Kadman Museum, who acted as chairman of the first AINA convention ever held on the soil of Israel.

The numismatic press was amply represented with Richard S. Yeoman

of Whitman Hobby Division, Western Publishing Co., Racine, Wis.; Chester L. Krause, publisher of Numismatic News, Iola, Wis.; Russell Rulau of Coin World, and editor of World Coin and Numismatic Scrapbook, Sidney, Ohio; Nathan Sobel, editor of The Shekel, AINA's quarterly publication, New York City; and Wilma Thompson, Associate Editor of The Shekel, Rumson, N. J.

Speakers at the meeting, in addition to Dr. Kindler, were Dr. Ernst W. Klimowsky of Tel Aviv, Chairman of the Israel Numismatic Society, and co-author along with Arie Kindler of "The Function and Pattern of the Jewish Coins and the City-Coins of Palestine and Phoenicia", Morris Bram, New York, AINA President, Congressman Bertram L. Podell, (D.-N.Y.). Russell Rulau presented a gift of \$250 to the museum on behalf of J. Oliver Amos, publisher of Coin World, World Coin and Numismatic Scrapbook. Among the Israelis present were Dr. Joseph Mayshe, author of "Essays in Jewish Numismatics", Dr. Aubrey Joffe, Irwin S. Driman, and O. H. Shasha.

An elegant reception by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. hosted by the director-general in Jerusalem, Mr. Yitzhak Avni and accompanied by Mrs. Avni highlighted the evening's events. The next day our touring was to begin with Ashkelon.

Shalom Coin The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. has honored a number of dignitaries in the United States with the 21st Anniversary Shalom commemorative coin, symbolizing Israel's desire for Peace. This desire is paramount today the world over. Shown here are two presentations, one to the Honorable Eva Adams, Director of the United States Federal Mint, and the other, to the Numismatic Division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



Obverse



Reverse

***Denotes**

special mint marks

ק – Jerusalem, uncirculated

מ – San Francisco, proof

No mark

San Francisco, uncirculated

Notes on 'Judaea Capta' Coins

by Yaakov Meshorer

The great Jewish Revolt of 66 CE had, without any doubt, decisive consequences upon the history of the Jewish people. The destruction of the Jerusalem Temple four years afterwards settled the destiny of that people and the fate of their Land for long generations.

When we come objectively to appraise the relations between the forces of Rome and Jerusalem in that uprising, we should not think merely in terms of military might or numerical balances. Jewish fanaticism and self-sacrifice cannot be measured in manpower or in the quality of weapons. The army which Rome had to muster to put down the Revolt was far stronger than that Rome ever used in any other of its wars. During the period of the Procurators, from the time of Coponius to the incumbency of Florus, only a few legions garrisoned Judaea, yet the reduced effectives seemed perfectly capable of quelling any attempts at insurrection in so small a country. But when things became worse and the Revolt broke out in its full ferocity, the Romans themselves were surprised by the size of the forces they had to throw into the struggle.

Nearly all the mints of the ancient world were engaged in issuing the Judaea Capta coins. Besides the famous gold, silver and bronze coins that were struck in Rome, they were minted also in Illyria, Gaul, Bithynia, Emesa, Alexandria and many other places. Obviously a number also came from a mint in Judaea apparently Caesarea.

All were made in the name of the Emperor Vespasian and his son Titus, and, of the interesting details they reveal, the most striking are especially

connected with the portrayal of Jewish captives. Since the sources are scarce from which we derive information on the everyday life of our forebears in the period of the Second Temple, we welcome any piece of evidence which can throw light upon it.

Most noteworthy is the depicting of the clothes worn by the prisoners on the Judaea Capta coins struck in Rome. Despite the fact that many types of these coins bear the mark of different dies at different times, all consistently show the same kind of costume, that is, a length of cloth hung from the shoulders and ending in two points, one at the front and one at the back, and open at the sides, and this seems to be the only garment of the prisoner, worn under the cuirass, which was taken away by the Romans after his capture.

If we were to reconstruct it, we should see a piece of cloth about two metres in length, not very wide and with a split in the middle through which the head can pass. (The Hebrew name is 'haluk', the 'divided'.) This assumption is reinforced by discoveries in the desert caves of Judaea of garments which actually belonged to Jewish warriors from the period of the Bar-Kochba Revolt, seventy years later. Another particular which holds our attention is that, in all cases, the Jewish captive is wearing a kind of headdress made of a strip of fabric twisted round and round, as the Sikhs do today. Unfortunately the reproduction is so small that it is impossible to discern the details.

Notwithstanding the striking contrast between the costume of the Jewish male on the Judaea Capta coins and that of the Romans and other peo-

ples appearing on coins of the period, the dress of the Jewish women on the *Judaea Capta* coins and that of the Roman women of those days are quite alike: they are wearing the 'stola'. There might have been differences in colour and decoration, but such minutiae cannot be detected on coins.

One of the most characteristic coins is that shown in the first illustration.



Obverse



Reverse

Obverse: Head of Vespasian to right, laureate, around inscription: IMP. CAES. VESPASIANVS AVG. P.M.TR. P.P.P. COS. III, which means: 'The Emperor Caesar Vespasianus Augustus, High Priest, with the power of Tribune, Father of Fathers, Consul for the third time'. This coin was struck in 71 CE.

Reverse: In the centre, a seven-branched palm-tree with two clusters of fruit. The palm-tree is a characteristic symbol of *Judaea* and it is possible the branches being seven in number, that it was deliberately intended for *Judaea*. To the left, stands the Caesar in the uniform of a Roman soldier. His left foot rests on a helmet (the lowly position of the helmet apparently symbolizes the victory over the enemy and its total destruction). In his right hand is a spear, and in his left, a sword. In this instance the sword (gladius) is in its scabbard, which was how it was worn on ceremonial occasions, as we find on some

Roman statues. It was thus the Emperor wore the sword during a triumph. To the right of the tree, a Jewess sits in mourning on a cuirass, resting her head on her left hand. Some see in the figure of this Jewess a personification of *Judaea*. The picture, even without the surrounding inscription, 'IVDAEA CAPTA' (Captive *Judaea*) is a complete representation of the victory of the Romans over *Judaea*.



Obverse



Reverse

Below, the letters S.C. (Senatus Consulto) denote that the coin was minted by order of the Senate.

In the second illustration the coin has a similar mourning Jewess but, in this case, she sits beneath a trophy composed of a pole crowned by the spoils of war—spears, javelins, shields, cuirass, helmet and so on. Their appearance on this coin and other coins of *Judaea Capta* makes it difficult to say if the weapons are specifically Jewish.

Obverse: IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG. Head of Vespasian to the right, laureate. Denarius, mint of Rome, 69-70 CE.

Reverse: Jewess, veiled, seated right in attitude of mourning, beneath trophy.

As seen here, they seem Roman and it is possible, therefore, that the Jews copied the more developed Roman armament. Below, the form of the inscription IVDEA denotes that this was a conquered people.

Continued on page 9

Israel Liberata

by Wilma Thompson



1958 Government Issue

The two upper medals shown on the back cover were the first medals struck by the new state of Israel, and marking its Tenth Anniversary symbolises an historic turning point for the Jewish people, the turning point from bondage to freedom in its own state.

Reverse: Facsimile of Roman coin which was struck to record Vespasian's conquest of Judea in 70 CE. To the left stands the Emperor, and on the right is a seated figure of a mourning Jewess beneath a seven-branched palm tree that bears two clusters. The Latin inscription "Judea Capta" encircles the scene. In the exergue, SC for "Senatus Consultum" (senatorial decree). A chain surrounds most of the rim, apart from the words in Hebrew: "The Dispersion of Judea" and the Hebrew year of Judea's overthrow, "3830".

Obverse: The obverse has as its motif "Israel Freed". In the center is the same seven-branched palm tree with its twin clusters. To the right of

the tree, a kneeling man plants a sapling, to the left of it, a woman joyously lifts an infant in her arms. The composition is meant to typify the new life in Israel. Round the rim is the Latin inscription "Israel Liberata", and the words "Tenth Anniversary of Israel's Freedom" in Hebrew, and the Hebrew year of Judea reborn "5718".

The medal was designed by Rothschild and Lippmann, from a suggestion by the late Leo Kadman. It was struck in Israel in four forms:

Metal	Diameter mm.	Weight gm.	Quantity
silver	61	115	3,000
silver	35	30	5,000
copper	61	105	25,000
bronze (restrike)	61	120	unknown

The 61 mm. copper medal sold out so quickly that the government gave in to the pleading of collectors and issued a restrike. It is easily discernible from the original since three holes were drilled in the field and then filled giving the appearance of three 'balloons'.

Continued from page 8

Any modern discovery pertaining to the Jewish combatants of the First and Second Revolts arouses a kind of romantic national feeling and pride in the past. This is the background of the Medals of Liberation (see back cover) issued by the State of Israel, which contrast the destruction wrought in 70 CE and the independence restored nineteen centuries later — the Hebrew captive in manacles and the free Jewish farmer planting a young tree, the Jewess mourning the ruin of her Land and a joyous mother in Israel holding high her child in exultation.

1958 Government Approved Issue

The center two medals on the back cover were actually the first of the liberation medals issued in Israel. They were privately struck, receiving however the approval of the government. The incuse edge inscription reads "ISRAEL GOVERNMENT APPROVED ISSUE" with the date "1948-58" between two state emblems. A more detailed background description can be found on page 47 of Vol. 1, No. 1 issue of "The Shekel". The details of the medal are given below.

Continued on page 32

Three Israeli Numis-museums Get \$

Mr. R. Rulau makes presentations in name of J. O. Amos, publisher



Mr. Russell Rulau presents a check for \$250.00 to Dr. A. Ben-Eli (right), curator of the Haifa Maritime Museum. Your editor is to the left.

Mr. Russell Rulau, the editor of *World Coins* and the *Numismatic Scrapbook*, made contributions to three well known Israeli Museums, while on his recent visit to Israel, with the AINA Numismatic Study Tour.

Each of the three contributions consisted of a check in the amount of \$250.00 donated by Mr. J. O. Amos, the Sidney Numismatic publisher of *Coin World*, *World Coins*, *Numismatic Scrapbook*, and many other publications related to the science and hobby of numismatics.

The first gift was given to Mr. Arie Kindler, curator of the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel Aviv, on March 12, on the occasion of AINA's 2nd Forum, held at the Planetarium Hall, adjacent to the Museum.

The contribution to the Haifa Maritime Museum was presented on March 15, to Dr. Arie Bel-Eli, its curator, for the unique presentation of numismatics of the Sea. The occasion was a special numismatic exhibition of ancient and modern Israel coins held under the auspices of the Haifa Municipal Museum and prepared by the Israel Numismatic Society of Haifa.

The Hon. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, was presented with the third contribution of \$250.00 from Mr. J. O. Amos, for the benefit of the Israel Museum Numismatic Division, in Jerusalem. Mr. Kollek, an ardent numismatist himself, asked Mr. Rulau to convey his thanks to Mr. Amos on behalf of the Museum.

Nathan Sobel



Mr. Morris L. Bram, President of AINA presents medal to Mr. Arie Kindler for the Kadman Museum.

Ancient Money-Changers

by Jeremy U. Newman, P.E.

"And Jesus entered the Temple of God and drove out all who sold and bought in the Temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, 'It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.'" (Matthew 21:12,13)

It is unfortunate that when most of us think of money-changers in ancient times we recall this incident, which puts them in such a bad light.

Why were there money-changers in the Temple? We read in Exodus (30:11-16) that all Israelites "numbered in the census shall give this: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as an offering to the Lord . . . The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less . . . to make atonement for yourselves."

This half a shekel (*machtsit ha-shekel*) is still given by observant Jews in the form of a silver half-dollar to the synagogue at Purim time. In addition, Zionist organizations ask each member to purchase a "Shekel" as his vote for party delegates to world congresses.

It is of importance to note that the half shekel had to be just that, no more, no less, and that a rich man from outside of Israel could not fulfill his holy obligation by contributing a gold denar, worth perhaps 24 times as much. Therefore, accommodating money-changers set up shop in the Temple court to make change, and, of course, a commission for themselves. Jesus was offended at their behavior.

When I first set about doing research for my chart, *Jewish Weights and Measures*, I was impressed by the

number of foreign weights, measures, and coins I kept encountering, many with Hebrew or Aramaic transliterations of Greek and Roman names, for example *denar*, *espar*, *issar*, etc. No one could do business in the Roman Empire without using Roman money, and it was only natural that everyone used the denarius (Hebrew *denar*). Two thousand years later and half way around the globe a high price is "Mucho dinero!"

With local currencies competing with the official coinage, money-changers were kept busy throughout the entire Roman Empire. Apparently they sat at small tables in every land, as their name indicates: in Latin, *mensarius*; in Greek, *τραπηζιτης*; and in Hebrew, *שוֹחֵקֵי*. The Mishnah, the Jewish code of oral law written down by Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi in the Second Century, C.E., makes constant reference to them, and sheds light on their activities.

The Mishnah (Shekalim 1:3) treats it as a matter of course that the *shulchoni* (money-changer) sat in the Temple. "On the fifteenth thereof (month of Adar) they set up money exchanges in the provinces; on the twenty-fifth they set them up in the Temple,"* all to enable people to obtain their half-shekel.

But money-changers spent most of their lives in the market place. In an almost comical Mishnah passage, Kidushin 3:2, the Rabbis speak of betrothals entered into upon the promise to pay money, even if the man said, "... 'On the condition that I show thee two hundred zuz,' then she becomes betrothed, and he must show it to her,

*Note: Mishnah quotations from Mishnayoth by Philip Blackman, The Judaica Press, Inc.

Continued on page 31

The First Jewish Coin?

Important Find of the "YEHUD" Coin May Shed Light on Long Standing Dilemma



There are many pieces of the Jewish numismatic puzzle that are already in place, there are others that have been misplaced, and there are those that have not yet been located. The unique coin shown above, greatly enlarged, may very well be the missing link in the early history of Palestinian numismatics.

This coin has just been brought to light by Mel Wacks, in his role as Numismatic Consultant to the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California. The prominent sculptor, Victor Ries, obtained the coin when he lived in Palestine; he has generously presented it to the Magnes Museum where it is destined to become a star attraction.

The tiny silver coin is similar to the Yehud-types thought to have been issued by the Persian-Jewish province of Judah in the Fifth or Fourth Century B.C.E. There is, however, at least one

very important difference: an additional letter is present on the Magnes Museum's specimen. The extra letter precedes the word YEHUD and seems to be an ancient Hebrew "ayin." (It is the small triangle to the right of the owl's head.) The ayin was used on other coins of this period to signify the Gaza mint, since it was the first letter of the ancient name of Gazah . . . "AZ'H." (אֵזְה).

This remarkable inscription possibly indicates that an heretofore unknown alliance existed for a time between the Jewish province of Judah and the Philistine province of Ashdod, whose principal commercial city was Gaza.

A complete analysis of this Gaza-Yehud coin is now being prepared by Mel Wacks and will appear in the next issue of "The Shekel."

Photo by Bernie Marks and Mike Grossman.

The **ALEPH BETH** Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by **Edward Janis**



Q.—Is it true that the 25 Mils of 1948 is the rarest coin of the pruta series as stated in Haffner? Dr. R. L., Brooklyn, N. Y.

A.—Correction please. Haffner said **UNCIRCULATED** coins according to a survey that she made on availability in mid-1966. In Israel, there exists the same prototype of U.S. collectors who are continually looking through their change trying to find coins worth more than their face value. Prior to the introduction of the Agora coins in 1960, we have been told that two other coins were much more difficult to find in circulation. The number one was the reduced size 100 Pruta small wreath (Utrecht die) and the number two was the 50 Pruta of 1949 with pearl. It's easy to understand the former. Because of the small difference in size with the then circulating 50 Pruta (23-23.5 mm. vs. 25.6 mm. diameters), an aroused and confused public caused the Government to destroy stocks of the reduced size on hand and by withdrawal from circulation. This die had a total striking of 20,000 and it is not known how many actually got out into the public's hands. Lest we think that this is unique, we had the same problem back in 1875 when people complained about the similarity of the design and size of the twenty-cent pieces with the quarter. They were done away with the following year. On the other hand, it is paradoxical that a coin with an announced mintage of 6,000,000 should, as in the case with the 50 Pruta-1949 with pearl, be a rare coin. I don't

buy the fact that the mintmark was weak and wore off quickly. I have examined hundreds of worn pieces with magnification up to 15X and have found no evidence of a mintmark. Some years back, I read of an actual survey by a skilled numismatist who in Israel examined 100,000 of these pieces over a two year period and did not find a single mintmarked (pearl) piece. There is more to the story of this piece that time and research will tell.

Q.—How do I tell the difference between the regular and the proof 1958 Law Is Light one pound Chanuka Commemoratives? S. K., Phila. & others.

A.—This is one of the tough ones to identify. The differences are minute and the best way to anchor these differences is to physically examine both the proof and the regular issues together. There is a grain to the cupronickel planchets that is finer on the proofs. I have no knowledge of whether this exists because of finer finishing of the planchets for the proofs i.e. polishing, die polishing, greater striking pressure or any combination thereof. The field (the blank spaces) has a higher luster with less grain than the regular issue. The edge is sharper (not sharp or wire) than the regular and the letters and the insignia are more definitive. Beware of purchasing a polished regular piece as a proof. Look for the same luster to exist in the field between the candles of the Menorah, the openings of the smaller letters and es-

Continued on page 24

Brandeis University Hosted Israel Numismatic Society of Mass.

The Honorable Morris L. Abram, President of Brandeis University was Chairman of a unique program celebrating the inauguration of the Israel Numismatic Society of Massachusetts. A special Israel night was scheduled to mark the event in the Schwartz Hall at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, on Monday, April 14, 1969, at 8 PM.

Over 400 people attended the unprecedented affair. Among the guests were the Honorable Moshe Ofer, Consul General of Israel, Dr. Emanuel Goldberg, Dean of Brandeis University, Mr. Joseph Milo, Ass't. Trade Commissioner for the U.S. and Canada, Mr. Morris Bram, President of AINA, and Mr. Nathan Sobel, Editor of "The Shekel".

Dr. Nahum Sarna, Chairman of the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University delivered a keynote speech.

Mr. Irving L. Rudin is the President of the newly formed Israel Numis-

matic Society of Massachusetts.

The Society is the newest link in a chain affiliated with the American Israel Numismatic Association contributing to a cultural exchange between the United States and Israel through Numismatics.

A prize winning Israel Numismatic Exhibit was featured in the Schwartz Hall. It consisted of 28 display panels including every commemorative coin minted by the Bank of Israel since 1958, and all State Medals struck by the Government of Israel.

The program also included the showing of two films, "Within The Circle", a study of the historic origins of coin design in Israel as well as an exciting travelog featuring a comprehensive visit in Israel. Two of Israel's foremost entertainers — Hedva & David appeared in a performance of Israeli melodies.

Refreshments were served to the participants.



EVA ADAMS AT INAUGURATION OF ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA



Hon. Eva Adams, Director of the United States Government Federal Mint (2nd from right), greets Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of the United States and Canada, and his staff. From left to right Mrs. Yemima Gabay, Miss Violet Menachem — a new arrival from the Jerusalem office, and Miss Dalia Zuckerman. The occasion was the inauguration of the Israel Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania.

Israel Night highlighted the inauguration of the INS of Pennsylvania, February 27, 1969, in the Rose Garden of the Bellview Stratford Hotel, Broad and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. The guests of honor included: The Hon. Joshua Eilberg, Congressman from Pennsylvania; The Hon. Eva Adams, Director of the U.S. Mint; The Hon. James H. J. Tate, Mayor of Philadelphia — represented by Mr. Warren Weiner, Deputy City Representative; The Hon. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation; The Hon. Y. Ben-Yaakov, Consul General of Israel; Mr. Morris Bram, President, American Israel Numismatic Association; Arthur Sipe, President of A.N.A.; Cale Jarvis, President of Krause Publications, Ltd.; Chester Krause, Publisher of Numismatic News and Coins Magazine; Russell Rulau, Editor of World Coins and Numismatic Scrapbook.

AINA was represented by Mr. Morris Bram, President, and Nathan Sobel, editor of "The Shekel".

The program consisted of award presentations, a film showing "Israel's Adventures Through Time", guest folk artists from Israel, refreshments, and the prize winning exhibit of 28 panels of all Israel Government Commemorative Coins and State Medals.

"SHALOM" Coin—Oversubscribed

Mr. Joseph Milo, Israel's Assistant Trade Commissioner to the United States and Canada has announced that the orders for the "SHALOM" Commemorative Coin have been completely oversubscribed. Many orders could not be filled.

The demand for this 21st Anniversary 10 IL Coin, has been overwhelming from the day of announcement, and its popularity is probably derived from its motto—PEACE. The yearning of PEACE in Israel, and the yearning of PEACE, the world over.

N. S.

Judaeae Jottings

by Mel Wacks



Who Issued The First Jewish Coins?

The Government of Israel is the exclusive issuing authority for the coins of the modern Jewish State. And before the creation of Israel in 1948 one has to trace back to 135 A.D. to the revolutionary government of Simon Bar Kochba to find coins issued by Jewish authority in the land of Israel. We can further follow this numismatic trail back through the coins of the First Revolt, the Herodians and Maccabaeans (Hasmonians). As we continue to regress we enter the periods of Alexander the Great and the Persian Kingdom respectively. This "time tunnel" finally halts in 538 B.C., which marks the end of the Babylonian captivity and return of 50,000 Jews to Jerusalem.

But exactly when were coins first struck by an autonomous Jewish authority? I will not try to give a definite answer to this most important question. I will, however, present the theories and arguments advanced by the greatest experts in the world on ancient Jewish numismatics over the past 100 years or so . . . and you can draw your own conclusion. Keep in mind that in numismatics just as in life things are not always black or white; the fun is wading through the gray areas.

I have acted as editor in selecting those writings which bear on the question at hand. The opinions are presented in chronological order.

Madden (1864, 1881)

Frederic W. Madden was the Assistant in the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum. He wrote the "History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New

Testament" in 1864 which was one of the pioneering texts on this subject in English. By 1881 additional information had come to light and Madden revised his study, publishing it as "Coins of the Jews".

He wrote in his first book:

"In 142 B.C. favorable negotiations were entered into by Simon (Maccabaeus) with Demetrius II, King of Syria. Demetrius wrote, 'We are ready to make a steadfast peace with you, yea and to write unto our officers to confirm the immunities we have granted . . . As for any oversight or fault committed unto us this day, we forgive it, and the crown tax also which ye owe us, and if there were any other tribute paid in Jerusalem, it shall be no more paid.'

"Thus the yoke of the heathen was removed from Israel and the people of Israel began to write in their contracts 'In the first year of Simon the high-priest, the governor and leader of the Jews'.

"After a successful siege of Jerusalem, Simon entered triumphantly on the twenty-third day of the second month in the 171st year of the Seleucidian era (141 B.C.).

"A favorable alliance was also concluded with the Romans by Simon, who sent Numenius to them with a great shield of gold of a thousand pounds weight. Palestine, thus, during the government of Simon attained a degree of prosperity that it had not known for a long time.

"A letter from Antiochus VII Sidetes, the son of Demetrius I, granted Simon still more favorable privileges: 'Now therefore I confirm unto thee all the oblations which the kings be-

fore me granted thee, and whatsoever gifts besides they granted. I give thee leave also to coin money for thy country with thine own stamp, and as concerning Jerusalem and the sanctuary, let them be free.'

"It does not, however, follow that Simon made use of the privilege of coining before Antiochus actually conferred it upon him, though it is more than probable that he did so.

"The coins (Silver Shekels and Half Shekels) of Simon are then struck in the 174th year of the Seleucidian era (November?) 139 B.C. to February 135 B.C., the year of the death of Simon. If Simon struck coins previous to the actual permission being granted (viz. from his first year in 143 B.C.) the coins of the four years would then be struck during the most prosperous period of his reign. In this case the dates on the coins would refer to the years of Simon's reign and not to the years after the special permission of coining was granted."

When the preceding was written the silver Shekel dated the year five had not been discovered. However, by the time "Coins of the Jews" appeared in 1881, Madden knew of this coin. He then changed his dating system to agree with the theories of Dr. Eugen Merzbacher ("Die Zeitrechnung der Sekel" 1878) who dated the coins from the charter of Demetrius II, in 141 B.C.:

"As to the 'right of coinage' conferred by Antiochus VII, Dr. Merzbacher shows that Antiochus' letter was written 'from the isles of the sea' and can, therefore, be fixed during the period when he stayed at Rhodes . . . about 140-139 B.C., or the second official year of Simon's government. Simon would thus have coined without authority only the coins of his first year."

Rogers (1914)

The Reverend Edgar Rogers had full

access to the collection of Jewish coins at the British Museum, which had grown considerably from Madden's time. Rogers wrote in his "A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins":

"It is certain that the Persian king, Darius Hystaspis (521-486 B.C.), coined gold money of a high quality and that an abundant issue of gold and silver, commonly called Darics and Sigloi, continued until the victory of Alexander the Great at Arbela in 331 B.C. when the Persian Empire was broken. The Jew on his return from Babylon must have been familiar with these coins and the post-exilic references to money, especially in Ezra⁽¹⁾ and Nehemiah are represented by the Daric and Siglos, not by any Jewish issues.

"Among his other exploits Alexander the Great appeared before Jerusalem; and the story runs that he was so impressed by the glory of the High Priest Yaddous that he not only refrained from destroying Jerusalem, but actually granted special privileges to the Jews. In virtue of this De Saulcy did not hesitate to ascribe the early Jewish Shekels to the time of Alexander. It may be said now that this is clearly a mistaken idea.

"As the outcome of the spread of hellenism, Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Syria called out the opposition of the Maccabees and Jewish coinage proper begins.

(1) EZRA II: "And came unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city . . . the priests, the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three."

EZRA VII: "And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem . . . That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem." (From letter of King Artaxerxes to Ezra the Priest.)

EZRA VIII: "I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and of gold an hundred talents, and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold. Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God . . . by number and weight of every one and all the weight was written at that time."

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Fifteen State Medals to Be Discontinued

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has informed AINA of the scheduled discontinuance of selected state medal series as of June 30, 1969. Discontinuation of these series has stimulated an overwhelming demand for Israel State Medals, and enlivened the interest in collector acquisition.

The following State Medals will be terminated:

A. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL SERIES

commemorating

1. *The First International Harp Contest* held in Jerusalem in September, 1959.
2. Pablo Casals for his distinguished presence at the third *International Cello Contest* held in Israel in 1961.
3. *The Second International Bible Contest* held in Jerusalem in October, 1961.
4. *The Second Festival of Music and Drama* held in Israel in August and September, 1962.
5. *The Second International Harp Contest* held in Jerusalem in September, 1962.
6. *Tel Aviv International Trade Fair* held in the summer of 1964.

B. PILGRIMAGE SERIES

commemorating

1. *The B'nai B'rith World Convention* held in Jerusalem in May, 1960.
2. *The 6th Pentecostal World Conference* held in Jerusalem in May, 1960.
3. *The International Congress of Local Authorities* held in Tel Aviv in November, 1960.
4. *The Tenth General Assembly*

of the International Press Institute held in Tel Aviv in May, 1961.

5. *The Hebrew Union College* celebrating the inauguration of the Biblical and Archeological School Building in Jerusalem in March, 1963.

C. ISRAEL SALUTES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – ANNIVERSARY SERIES

commemorating

1. *Tel Aviv* on its 50th anniversary (1909-1959).
2. *B'nei-Beraq* on its 25th anniversary (1936-1961).

D. ROCKET & SHIP SERIES

commemorating

1. *Science in the Service of Peace* –launching Israel's first rocket: "SHAVIT" on August 5, 1961.
2. *The Maiden Voyage of Israel's Flagship* the s/s SHALOM, March, 1964.

Information can be obtained from AINA, P.O. Box 3194, Church St. Station, New York, N. Y. 10008.





Book Review

by Wilma Thompson

"Essays in Jewish Numismatics" by Joseph Meyshan, M.D., F.R.S.M., F.R.N.S. Foreword by Michael Avi-Yonah, Professor of Archaeology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Publication of the Israel Numismatic Society, 1968, Jerusalem, Israel. (165 pp).

The collection of essays presented in this numismatic gem represents twenty-five years of devoted effort on the part of the author to further the knowledge of Jewish numismatics.

The first three essays are enlightening surveys of the numismatic history of Israel, including the periods of Jerusalem coinage, and of Greco-Roman influences on the coins of the Jews. One fascinating essay deals with the elusive prutah which the author defines on the basis of Talmudic and evangelic sources, an interesting example of history aiding numismatics. And then, there is illustrated just the reverse situation by which historical conclusions are drawn from numismatic evidence. The author is able to identify which one of the Roman legions reconquered Jerusalem in the Bar-Kochba War.

Other essays deal with such specific coins as trial shekels struck at the time of the first Jewish revolt against Rome, a unique silver prutah of the procurator Valerius Gratus, and an unknown variant of the Judaea Capta coins, this one dated to the second consulship of Vespasian.

Dr. Meyshan's special field of study presented here is the numismatics of the Herodian dynasty. Here his work has branched out in three directions; one of which is the enrichment of the known material by publication of new coins or by the re-assignment of

coins wrongly attributed to one of the rulers of that house. Thus he was able to correct an attribution of a coin of Herod, and to discover new types of that rarest type of Jewish coins — on which the Kings Agrippa I and II are represented. One of his most valuable efforts is the tentative establishment of the chronology of the coins of Herod. The difficulty being that Herod had abandoned the practice of dating his coins.

Many of these essays appear in periodicals not easily accessible to the reading public, others had formerly been published only in Hebrew. Therefore this volume with up-to-date corrections and translations should be welcomed without qualification.

REPRINTS

This is the second in a series of reprints of articles concerning Jewish coins and medals. This reprint is particularly interesting since it serves as a supplement to Mel Wacks' column "Judaeana Jottings" appearing in this issue.

"COINS AND MEDALS — THEIR PLACE IN HISTORY AND ART" by the authors of The British Museum Official Catalogues, edited by Stanley Lane-Poole, published by Elliot Stock, London, 1894.

Most people will take a greater interest in the coins of Judaea, although none of these are very ancient, nor are they artistically pleasing. It would seem that, until the middle of the second century B.C., the Jews either weighed out gold and silver for the price of goods, or else used the money usually current in Syria, that of Persia, Phoenicia, Athens, and the Seleucidae. Simon the Maccabee was the first to issue the Jewish shekel as a coin, and

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REPRINTS

Continued

we learn from the Book of Maccabees that the privilege of striking was expressly granted him by King Antiochus VII of Syria. We possess shekels of years 1-5 of the deliverance of Zion; the types are a chalice and a triple flower.

The kings who succeeded Simon, down to Antigonus, confined themselves to the issue of copper money, with Hebrew legends and with types calculated not to shock the susceptible feelings of their people, to whom the representation of a living thing was abominable — such types as a lily, a palm, a star, or an anchor. When the Herodian family came in, several violations of this rule appear. For example, we find objects of heathen cultus, such as a tripod and a caduceus; and money was even struck in Judaea bearing the effigies of men, sometimes of the reigning Roman Emperor, sometimes even of the Jewish King. Both the Agrippas are guilty of this violation of principle. The Roman Procurators of Judaea also issued coin with Greek legends, and carefully dated, so that we can distinguish the money issued during the eventful years of the rise of Christianity at Jerusalem.

Both of the desperate but unsuccessful revolts of the Jews against their Roman masters — that in the reign of Vespasian under Simon and Eleazar, and that in the reign of Hadrian under Bar Kochba — have left a deep impression on the Jewish coin. In both periods the issue of shekels was resumed, and Roman denarii were freely re-struck by the revolted leaders with their own types and names. With these coins the Jewish money comes to an end. Jerusalem became a Roman colony under the name of Aelia Capitolina, and all money issued in that region bears witness in its types only to the defeat and slavery of the Hebrews.

JUDAH L. MAGNES MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum has issued its second annual commemorative token — the Wooden Prutah. This series is the first of its kind to be produced by a Jewish institution in the United States.

The profits from the sale of these tokens will go towards building up the permanent numismatic exhibit at the Magnes Museum, one of the four Jewish museums in this country.

The obverse of the Wooden Prutah features the representation of a vine leaf and small bunch of grapes. This design was originally used on the small bronze Prutah issued by the Jews during the First Revolt against the Romans exactly nineteen hundred years ago; the same symbol was more recently used on the 50 Pruta coin of modern Israel.

The obverse inscription reads "WOODEN PRUTAH" in Ancient Hebrew above and English below; the date "1969" also appears.

The reverse indicates one of the activities of the Magnes Museum — the preservation of Jewish landmarks in the West. Shown is Temple Beth Sholom, a synagogue erected in 1886 on Chumalia Street in San Leandro. For seventy years this tiny synagogue was the only one in the southern part of Alameda County. Beth Sholom is now the oldest standing synagogue in California and there are plans to have it designated an official San Leandro landmark in time for the city's Centennial. This historic building was purchased by the Magnes Museum in 1962.

The Wooden Prutah was designed by Mel Wacks. The issue will be limited to 1000 pieces. The price (postpaid) is \$1 for the first Wooden Prutah and 50¢ for each additional piece.

Tax-deductible checks should be made payable to the Magnes Numismatic Fund and should be sent to Mel Wacks, 5744 Spruce Avenue, Sacramento, California 95841.



Obverse



Reverse

Israel's Late Prime Minister Eshkol Medal

Just a few medals available



The likeness of Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel and leader of his nation during the Six Day War, was created by Ralph J. Menconi, one of the leading U.S. sculptors. The medal, which ^{has been} ~~is being~~ minted by Medallion Art Company, ^{was} ~~will be~~ issued by the American Israel Numismatic Association early in January 1968, to coincide with the visit of Mr. Eshkol to the United States. All medals ^{were} ~~will be~~ serially numbered on their edges and issued in limited quantities.

Bronze	2" diameter	\$ 4.50
Silver	1 3/4" diameter	14.00

The new American Israel Numismatic Association is a non-profit, educational organization formed to serve North American collectors of Israeli numismatics. Its quarterly magazine, "The Shekel" will be sent free to members. To order medals and receive membership information on A.I.N.A., please fill in the coupon below.

How to order: Make check payable and send to: The American Israel Numismatic Association, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008.

- ☐ Please reserve for me _____ silver and _____ bronze Levi Eshkol medals, which I understand will be sent to me after February 5. (Add 50¢ per medal for postage and handling.) Enclosed is my check for \$_____.
- ☐ Please send me full information on the American Israel Numismatic Association.

Name _____

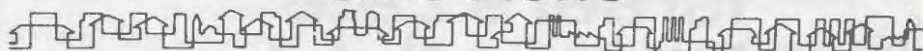
Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

FROM NEW YORK

The April meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of New York welcomed its members who returned from the AINA tour of Israel. Highlights of the trip were discussed by the membership. Additional topics for the evening included: presentation sets of the Israel Government, the amphora ampula and jugs on ancient coins, concentration camp tokens, first issue bank notes of 1948, coins of the New Testament.

The April meeting was held at the McAlpin Hotel.

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

The District of Columbia Chapter of the AINA met at the Perpetual Savings and Loan Building in Silver Springs, Md. The chapter, just recently formed, has thirty-seven members at present. The evening program was a slide presentation of ancient Jewish coins. Lectures and displays were given by Mr. Harold Nussbaum. The D.C. Chapter is involved in petitioning the Office of Domestic Gold and Silver Operations concerning the embargo on gold Israeli coins.

FROM FLORIDA

The Israel Coin Club of South Florida, at a meeting held on January 7, 1969 elected Hymen Sootin as President, succeeding B. J. Rubinstein, its first president and founder. Mr. Sootin, in taking office has laid out guidelines and objectives of the Israel Coin Club.

In order to stimulate more interest in promoting Israel numismatics, and increasing membership, he intends to involve all the membership in a vigorous campaign to bring visitors to the club meetings.

The club had an auction sale of a variety of Israel coins submitted for sale by members.

Mr. Edward Schuman, the Chairman of Publicity, has arranged for a showing of the Israeli numismatic film, "Within the Circle" for the February 4th meeting.

The following officers were elected: First Vice President, Dr. Oscar Winkelstein; Second Vice President, Marvin Haspil; Rec. Secretary, Mrs. Lynne Silverblatt; Corr. Secretary, Mrs. Mary Barr; Treas., Morris Barr; Board of Directors, B. J. Rubinstein, Al Bergman, Jack Diamond, Irving Rosen, Edward Schuman.

Visitors and tourists coming to Miami are invited to attend meetings. For information in Miami phone 949-6124.

The club also voted to join the American Israel Numismatic Association and thus represent the association in the southern Florida area.

FROM LOS ANGELES

On January 5th, the club held its annual installation dinner meeting. New officers for 1969 are Bob Berman, President; Milt Fishgold, 1st Vice President; Harold Wolpe, 2nd Vice Presi-

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JOIN THE EVER-GROWING RANKS OF MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL

Israel Numismatic Society

STUDY ISRAEL THROUGH YOUR COINAGE—ENJOY YOUR
COLLECTION TOGETHER WITH YOUR FELLOW-COLLECTORS

For further information, please write to the closest club in your area as itemized below:

CALIFORNIA

Israel Numismatic Society of Greater San Francisco

Dr. Bernard Kaufman — *President*
Judah Magnes Museum
2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, Calif.

Dr. Seymour Fromer, Director
Judah Magnes Memorial Museum
2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, Calif.

Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles

Mr. R. Berman — *President*
c/o State Mutual Bank Bldg.
15th & Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif.

Mr. Jerry Yahalom
6962 Lena Ave., Canoga Park, Calif. 91304

Israel Numismatic Society of Northern California (Sacramento)

Mr. Mel Wacks — *President*
5744 Spruce Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95841

Israel Numismatic Society of Southern California (San Diego)

Mr. M. Kraus — *President*
5130 Morris Road, San Diego, Calif. 92115

Israel Numismatic Society of San Gabriel Valley of California

Mr. John D. McQuaide — *President*
1015 Conlon Avenue, La Puente, Calif.

FLORIDA

Israel Coin Club of South Florida (Palm Beach)

Mr. Sootin — *President*

Mr. Winklestein — *Vice President*

Mr. Edward Schuman
6857 N.E. 3rd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33138

ILLINOIS

Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois (Chicago)

Prof. Moshe Davidowitz — *President*
The College of Jewish Studies
72 East 11th Street, Chicago, Ill. 60605

Mr. Harry Flower — *Vice President*
5200 W. Harrison, Chicago, Ill. 60644

MASSACHUSETTS

Israel Numismatic Society of Massachusetts (Boston)

Rabbi Rothman — *President*
Temple Shalom of Newton
175 Temple Street, West Newton, Mass. 02165

Mr. Irving L. Rudin
Counsellor at Law
158 Oak Street, Newton, Mass. 02164

NEW YORK

Israel Numismatic Society of New York (New York City)

Mr. Morris Bram — *President*
AINA P.O. Box 3194
Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008

Mr. Frank W. Porcaro — *Secretary*
30 Central Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11221

OHIO

Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland, Ohio

Mr. Max S. Gladstone — *President*
730 Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio 44115

PENNSYLVANIA

Israel Numismatic Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Hon. J. Sidney Hoffman — *President*
Judge of Superior Court of Penn.
Philadelphia City Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Marvin Levinthal — *Vice President*
5210 Drexel Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19131

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D.C.

Dr. Samuel Halperin — *President*
6812 Sixth Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

CANADA

Israel Numismatic Society of Quebec (Montreal)

Mr. Gordon Kaufman — *President*
S. Bronfman Center
5170 Cote de Catherine, Montreal, P.Q., Canada

Join Our National Organization
AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008

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dent; Evelyn Sadler, recording secretary and Mel Fishel, treasurer.

The club also reports that it has lowered the age for junior members from 13 to 7. Everyone knows that you don't have to be Bar-Mitzvah to be a numismatist.

FROM SACRAMENTO

The Sacramento Israel Numismatic Society (SINS), in cooperation with the Sacramento Branch of the Bank of Montreal, presented a display of Israeli coins and medals in observance of National Coin Week, April 20-26, 1969. The SINS displayed examples of modern and ancient coins which contain similar designs based on food motifs, e.g., barley and grapes, in accord with the 1969 theme of National Coin Week. By coincidence, the 21st anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel fell on April 23, 1969. SINS members hope that the 21st anniversary commemorative, the Shalom 10 IL coin to be struck at the San Francisco Mint, will arrive in time to be exhibited. The SINS display was open to the public during normal business hours at the Bank of Montreal, 812 J Street, Sacramento, California.

Continued from page 13

pecially in 1958 as against the large areas of the field. If you are thinking of buying a proof from a dealer, ask him to put that piece together with half a dozen of the regular issue. Believe me, you will pick out the proof. If you cannot do so, don't buy it because even if it is a proof, you will never be happy with that coin and always be nagged with an unrequited doubt.

The two half-shekels minted in 1961-1962 were struck in cupronickel and have a diameter of 30 mm. with a weight of 12 gms.

A.I.N.A. "Chai" Chapter I.N.S. of Long Island — at Lisplex — VIII

The Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island, the 18th A.I.N.A. affiliated club, is to be inaugurated on May 30, 1969, 3:00 P.M. at the LISPEX-VIII, the National S.I.P. Convention in Garden City, L.I.

S.I.P. is the Society of Israel Philatelists, and LISPEX-VIII stands for the 8th Long Island Israel Society of Philatelic Exhibition.

Among the honored guests will be the Hon. Bertram L. Podell, Congressman from Brooklyn, and the Hon. Rehavia Amir, Consul General of Israel in New York.

The LISPEX-VIII itself, has a very rich program through June 1, and will feature among others, 25 dealer booths, 150 outstanding collections, a U.S. and U.N. Post Offices, Israel Philatelic and Numismatic exhibits, the famous Cardinal Spellman exhibition, and stamp and coin club lounges. There will also be an auction, raffling of prizes, gifts every hour, slide lectures, trophies and more.

The exhibit is open to the public. Admission is free.

"SHALOM" IN GOLD

"THE SHEKEL" has learned from very reliable sources, that the Bank of Israel is seriously considering to mint a limited quantity of the SHALOM coin in gold.

The minting will most probably be executed in one of the European state mints. The SHALOM in gold, which will bear the denomination of 100 I.L. (pound), will be of proof condition. The diameter is expected to be 35 mm., and the price, — \$100.00.

This gold coin will not be available in the U.S.A.

N.S.

All five pound Independence Day commemoratives have a diameter of 34 mm. and a weight of 25 gms. They were all struck in .900 fine silver.

Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins*

by Dr. Aaron Hendin (M.D.)

Introduction

This series is a superficial attempt to cover the highlights of Jewish History as portrayed on coins.

The earliest known mention of money in the Bible is in the Old Testament Story of Abraham. Among other items it speaks of silver for the redemption of the first-born after circumcision. In this same story we come across the word Shekel. A Shekel must be considered a weight rather than a coin, because coins in the sense that we know them today were not invented until about 700 B.C.E.

This important event occurred during the reign of King Manasseh of Judaea, between the time of the prophets Mica and Jeremiah. So any mention of Shekels, Talents or precious metals before this time must be considered as weights and not coins.

The first "coins" were merely small lumps of metal marked with some identifying sign or mark. The mark was only for the original "marker"—thus if the lump came back he could recognize his mark and would

not need to reweigh the lump, thus speeding up the transaction.

From these marked lumps the first true coins developed. Either the Lydians or Aeginian kings placed their own marks on these lumps guaranteeing their weights to all. Thus the king also guaranteed the value of the coins.

In all probability the honor of the first coinage goes to Lydia. Aeginia, a close second, was the first European city to produce coins.

The early coins of Lydia show a lion and bull's head facing each other with the reverse an incuse cut from the holding die. The coins of Aeginia show a turtle on one side with an incuse on the reverse.

Since 700 B.C.E. is the time of the first known coins, the story begins with this period. The word for money, pecuniary, comes from the Latin pecus or ox—actually the Talent is the weight of gold needed to purchase one ox and Shekel is the Babylonian word for 1/100 of a Talent.

The monetary history of the Jews can be divided into several main eras; 1) Pre-Maccabean, 2) Maccabean or Hasmonaean, 3) Judaea under Rome, including the Herodian Dynasty, 4) the Diaspora, and 5) The Modern State of Israel. The next issue will begin with the Pre-Maccabean Era.

* This is a new series, which will appear in subsequent issues of *The Shekel*.

Dr. Alexander Hendin, a Medical Doctor of St. Louis, has been collecting Israeli and biblical coins for over 15 years. He uses his collection to teach Sunday School students Jewish history. The article which is being serialized starting with this issue is an outgrowth of the course he teaches.

Dr. Hendin expects to donate his collection to the local synagogue, for eventual permanent display.

Dr. Hendin feels strongly that Israel Numismatics provides an excellent medium for teaching the Jewish heritage.

The Israel-Canada Token of Friendship Medal is the only medal from Israel struck in nickel alloy; in commemoration of another country; and with the inscription "State of Israel" on the face rather than the edge.

POUND to become SHEKEL

Changeover Will Take 2 Years

The Finance Committee approved on March 26, a Knesset member's bill by Mr. Zalman Abramov, to replace the name "lira" by "shekel," because "shekel" is a Hebrew word. The change will not be made officially for another two years.

The Bank of Israel said it was currently channelling new money into circulation, and it would take as long as that before the money was worn out enough to warrant withdrawing it.

We cannot help but feel proud of our selection of the name "Shekel" for our publication. Now we can be more easily identified as the official spokesman for the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

The winner for the forthcoming Pidyon Ha'-ben Shekel which will be released in the fall has been announced. He is Zvi Narkiss, outstanding Israeli medallic designer.

Become a subscriber to the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation and enjoy advance notification and priority on all new coin and medal issues.

The Bar-Mitzvah Medal of 1961 was issued in seven different forms. There were the usual bronze specimens in addition to three silver specimens and three gold specimens.

The officers and directors of
the American Israel Numismatic
Association (A.I.N.A.), mourn the
untimely death of

NATHAN R. GOLDMAN

O. B. M.

one of our founding directors
and officers.

May his family find consolation in
his legacy of noble work and good
deeds for AINA and Israel.

Join AINA and receive
THE SHEKEL *free*

Membership dues \$6.00
per year.

Write to : **American Israel
Numismatic Association**

P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008

**A REQUEST
TO OUR READERS:**

We would appreciate your notifying us of a change of address. Please address correspondence to:

AINA
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008

The Hebrew letter "Mem" appears on all one and five pound commemoratives with the exception of the 1958/5719 issues. The "Mem" stands for Meyuchad or Melutash which translated into English means special, or polished.

DEAR MEMBER:

Interested in writing, critical book reviews, gripping yarns or personal adventure? Then share your experiences with the readers of "The Shekel".

Write the editor of this publication. Let us establish communication lines, increase the understanding and exchange views about numismatics. By so doing we will all benefit.

The Bank of Israel, which is the exclusive authority to mint coins of legal tender, is also entrusted with the task of minting commemorative coins.

The Pruta Series

10 PRUTA

Metal: Bronze
Weight: 6.1 gm
Diameter: 27 mm
Year: 5709 (1949)
Edges: Smooth



OBVERSE: In the centre an amphora with two handles. Above this the word "Israel" in Hebrew and, underneath, the same word in Arabic. A similar amphora appears on the large copper coins of the Bar-Kochba revolt: it was one in the series of holy vessels depicted on the Bar-Kochba coins and expressed the warriors' longing for independence and desire to rebuild the destroyed Temple.

REVERSE: Between two olive-branches, the inscription: "10 Pruta 5709" (in Hebrew letters). Near the edge of the coin a pearled rim. Similar olive-branches appear on the side of the Bar-Kochba coin which served as a model for the obverse of this modern counterpart.



Continued from page 17

"We come now to the series of coins, which are admittedly Jewish, struck by the Jews as a nation and not as money of any particular time or locality. At once we are face to face with one of the puzzles and charms of numismatic science. A series of silver Shekels and Half Shekels, of copper pieces without name of monarch or issuer, but all of them dated, suggests conjectures which must each stand on its own merits.

"We propose in the following classification to assign the first Jewish coins (copper) to the early days of the Macabees, the silver Shekels to Simon and John Hyrcanus, and the rest is practically plain sailing.

"An interesting specimen of the small bronze (Eighth Shekel?) in the British Museum Collection (Plate XX No. 15) has an elephant as countermark, suggesting Seleucid times.⁽²⁾

"In the present attribution the copper coins dated the fourth year are considered the earliest Jewish coins though Reinach, in his 'Jewish Coins' attributes them to the First Revolt. The present attribution appears preferable for the following reason, which seems to spring naturally out of the legend on the reverse.

(2) According to Geaby's "Greek Coins", the Syrian kings striking coins ranged from Seleucus I (312-280 B.C.) to Antiochus XII (89-84 B.C.). This would seem to preclude the possibility of this countermarked coin being from a later period (i.e. the First Revolt of 66-70 A.D.).

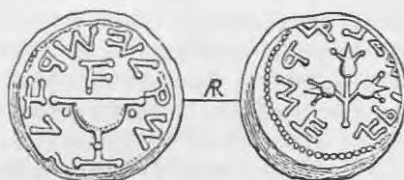
Continued on next page

Judaean Jottings

Continued



Silver Half Shekel



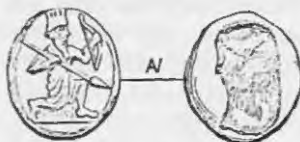
Silver Shekel

The Silver Shekel and Half Shekel, dated Year "One", were attributed as follows: De Sauley to the period of Alexander the Great (336-323 B.C.), Madden to Simon Maccabaeus (139 or 141 B.C.) and Rogers to Simon Maccabaeus (143 B.C.).



Small Bronze Counterstamped

Small Bronze, in the British Museum Collection, with an elephant countermark suggesting Seleucid times (312-84 B.C.).



Persian Daric

Persian Daric (Gold) Sixth-Fourth Century B.C.



Bronze Half Shekel



Bronze Quarter Shekel



Small Bronze

The Bronze Half Shekel, Quarter Shekel and Small (no denomination), dated "Year Four", were attributed as follows: Rogers to Judas Maccabaeus (161 B.C.) and Hill to Simon Maccabaeus (140/139 or 136/135 B.C.).

"What does 'the Redemption of Zion' mean? In the year 165 B.C. the Maccabees 'builded up the Mount Sion with high walls and strong towers round about, lest haply the Gentiles should come and tread them down as they had done aforetime' (1 Macc. IV, 69). Alcimus, a usurper high priest, and a party of men hostile to the Maccabees appealed to King Demetrius, who promptly sent an army under Nicanor against Judas Maccabaeus. The latter defeated Nicanor and, hearing of the fame of the Romans, concluded an offensive and defensive treaty with them. This occurred in the year 161 B.C. and then it may well be that Judas, emulating the practice of the Phoenician cities who had coined bronze coins even under the rule of Epiphanes, had this series of coins struck. They would, therefore, date from the fortification of Zion in 164 B.C. and so the fourth year would be 161 B.C.

"The alternate to this is to suppose that they are the coins, apparently copper Shekels, Half Shekels and Quarter Shekels, which Simon Maccabaeus struck at the outcome of the permission of Antiochus VII Sidetes to coin money. This would give the date 139 B.C. if the 'fourth year' on the coins referred back to 143 B.C., which had been declared 'the first of Liberty' (cf. I Macc. XIV, 27). And therefore the silver Shekels and Half Shekels would be the first Jewish coins, the first year corresponding to 143 B.C."

Hill (1914)

George Francis Hill, Keeper of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, catalogued the Jewish collection and published it in 1914. In his preface Hill states that because of the quantity of coins available for study it "has been possible to settle certain problems connected with this branch

of numismatics" (i.e. the dating of the silver Shekels). He continues:

"The epigraphical argument (concerning the silver Shekels and Half Shekels) leaves us, for the earliest coinage, the bronze $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ (?) shekels of 'year 4'. The form of the 'final nun', for instance, may well be the predecessor of that which is found on the coins of John Hyrcanus, but it cannot be placed between Antigonos and the Second Revolt. These bronze coins may therefore belong to Simon Maccabaeus, and are probably the money struck by him in accordance with the grant made by Antiochus VII in 139/138 B.C. It may even be that these coins anticipated the grant; for if, as is possible, the date on them is reckoned by the era of liberty, they were struck in 140/139 B.C.

"Simon had in September 141 been proclaimed high priest, general and prince of the Jews, and was in a powerful position; he may have already assumed the right of coinage, and Antiochus, who desired his support, was glad to confirm it.

"If, on the other hand, the era employed is that of 'full sovereignty', proposed by Reinach for the Shekels, then Simon did not strike any coins until 136/135 B.C. and as he died in February 135 the coinage came to an end, having lasted but one year. There is nothing impossible in the supposition that Simon did not immediately avail himself of the right of coinage; history is not without instances of such grants lying dormant for years. In fact the breaking-off of friendly relations with Antiochus in 136 may have provoked the issue."

Hill concluded that, using the epigraphical evidence, the silver Shekels and Half Shekels were issued during the First Revolt (66-70 A.D.).

This article will be concluded in the next issue of "The Shekel" with the more recent ideas of Reifenberg, Wirgin and Meshorer.

but if he showed them on the (money-changer's) table she has not become betrothed." Apparently some sharp bluffer had tried such a trick, resulting in a hearing before a rabbinical court.

As he sat in the market place, the money-changer was kept busy. Baba Metziah (4:6) informs us of their function in disputes involving counterfeit coins. "What length of time has one (deceived with bad money) to return such? In large towns, until he is able to show it to a money-changer, and in villages, until the eve of the Sabbath." Without the services of a money-changer, many a poor yokel was probably fleeced.

In Baba Metziah (3:11) we find that the money-changer was also the first banker. "If one deposited money with a money-changer (for safety) and it was tied up, (the latter) may not make use of it . . . (if the money were) loose, (the money-changer) may make use of it, hence if it were lost, he is responsible for it."

Of course, money-changers took their commission in most exchanges. In a discussion of the second tithe we read (Maaser Sheni 4:2), "They may redeem second tithe at the cheaper rate . . . the rate at which the money-changer gives small change for large coins, and not as he reckons when changing large coins for small change."

All of which leads to problems. Who could trust the wily money-changer? In Shevuoth (7:6) one notes, "If one said to a money-changer, 'Give me the change for a denar,' and he gave (it) to him and (then) said, 'Give me the denar,' and he replied, 'I gave it to thee and thou hast placed it in the money-chest,' the client takes an oath (and he gets the change)." Rabbi Judah knew the money-changers well when he said, "It is not a money-changer's practice to give (even) an issar before he receives his denar." (Note that an issar is only 1/24 of a denar!)

How did the money-changer operate? Baba Metziah (2:4) touches on this when it talks of a person finding a coin "in front of (the counter or table of) a money-changer, it belongs to the finder; but if (he found it) between the stool (of the money-changer) and the money-changer, it belongs to the money-changer . . ."

But a stool and a table were not the only equipment used. There was the money-chest (*unpolai*), mentioned in Shevuoth (7:6), into which he placed his excess coins. According to one opinion, the money-changer's pin (or nail) which is referred to as unsusceptive to uncleanness (Eduyoth 3:8 and Kelim 12:5) was used to keep the lid of his chest open when business was being transacted.

Although Jesus may have held money-changers in contempt, it is doubtful that we of today look upon these early banks with such a jaundiced eye. We know they were performing a most necessary function in society. All revolutionaries look upon the establishment with its money as evil, and Jesus was no exception.

But those who love ancient coins as an artistic expression of a society now passed by, take delight in these last objects of utility and beauty. When you look at some ancient shekel next time, try and imagine some Jew from far, on coming to Jerusalem with a purse of denars, going to the money-changer's table to purchase this very shekel. The money-changer examines the denar proffered, then drops it into his money-chest, and counts out the required change. Perhaps they trade a little gossip about local conditions or the cost of living in the far-off land of the foreigner. Had "The Shekel" been published in those days, the chances are money-changers throughout the known world would have subscribed, and the AINA would have been swelled with money-changer members. Who knows?

BOOKS

The following books were acquired recently:

1. "The Coins of Tiberias", by Arie Kindler. Published by Hamei Tiberia (Tiberias Hot Springs) Co. Ltd., Israel 1961, (118 pp)

2. "The Dating and Meaning of Ancient Jewish Coins and Symbols", six essays in Jewish numismatics, by Kadman, Kindler, Klimovsky, Meyshan. Publications of the Israel Numismatic Society, 1958, Jerusalem, Israel, (104 pp)

3. "The History of Coins and Symbols in Ancient Israel" by Wirgin and Mandel, Exposition Press, New York, 1958 (260 pp)

Watch future editions of The Shekel for Book Reviews. We will also endeavor to reprint articles of interest to the readers of The Shekel.

HOLIDAYS THIS SEASON

PASSOVER, or PESSAH. Pessah celebrates the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt. It is the Festival of Freedom; the highlight of this Holiday is the Seder ceremony on the first night. The festive board is heavy with appealing symbolism: the Matza — unleavened bread, eaten during the whole Festival, symbolising the haste of the Exodus; the Bitter Herbs in memory of the bitterness of bondage; the Charoseth reminding us of the mortar and the making of bricks. The story (Haggadah) of the wonders of the Exodus is narrated at length. The usually abstemious Jew partakes of the obligatory Four Cups of wine, the traditional symbol of joy, during the Seder, and hymns of praise and religious folk songs are lustily sung. The Song of Songs is read on Pessah, and on the Seventh Day the triumphant Song of the Red Sea is chanted in Synagogue. Passover was celebrated this year from April 3 to April 10.

Continued from page 9

Metal	Diameter mm.	Weight gm.	Quantity
silver	38	30	10,000
gold	27	15	10,000

1963 Government Issue

The three medals on the bottom section of the back cover were issued to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the State of Israel. The details of both the obverse and the reverse emerge from a deep circular incuse.

Metal	Diameter mm.	Weight gm.	Quantity
silver	59	120	5,000
silver	35	30	10,000
silver	20	4	unlimited
bronze	59	116	25,000

INDEPENDENCE DAY, or YOM HA'ATZMAUT Over 2,000 years the Jew waited until a new festival, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the Day of Israel's Independence, was added to his calendar. On the 5th of Iyyar, in 1948, Israel was declared an independent state. Thanksgiving services are held in the Synagogues and a Military Parade puts on display the might and efficiency of Israel's Defence Army. It is on this day particularly that we allow ourselves to take pride in Israel's achievements, not only in the field of Defence, but in the development of its economy and particularly in the amazing achievement of adding over a million immigrants from a hundred lands. When Israel celebrates its hard-won independence, one thinks of the Talmudic statement, "The Messianic age is when Israel is independent."

Independence Day was celebrated April 23. A special commemorative coin is minted each year for Independence Day, with a special motif. The motif for this year's 10 IL coin is SHA-LOM-PEACE.

The Shekel's Advertising Policy

1. RETURN PERIOD

Full refund or replacement will be made by the seller if buyer finds coins or numismatic material to be in unsatisfactory condition. Returns must be made within five days of receipt by the buyer. Refund or replacement will be made by the seller within three days of receipt of the returned item.

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All advertisers will be notified of complaints received in writing from customers. Prompt adjustment is expected if warranted, along with notification to the AINA. Failure to comply with these terms will be considered sufficient reason for suspension of further advertising.

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In the event an item is sold out, remittance will be returned within two days. The advertiser will not hold the remittance pending arrival of a new supply without permission given by the buyer.

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Only genuine material may be offered for sale. A published advertisement is considered a warranty by the seller that all items offered are genuine. Applicable legal statutes will govern and shall nullify the normal return period.

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Advertiser assumes liability for all contents of advertisement printed; these include text representation and illustrations. Advertiser also assumes responsibility for any claims arising therefrom made against publishers.

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All advertisements submitted are subject to the copy regulations contained in the rate card. In submitting advertising, the advertiser acknowledges familiarity with the advertising contract and copy regulations then in effect.

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All advertising is subject to the approval of editorial board. AINA reserves the right to reject, decline or suspend advertising privileges for any reason whatsoever.

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1/4 PAGE	28.00	75.50
1/8 PAGE	16.00	43.50
1/16 PAGE	9.00	24.50
INSIDE FRONT COVER	175.00	525.00
INSIDE BACK COVER	145.00	392.00

All copy should be supplied by advertiser ready for camera. Any necessary art work will be charged.



Obverse

JUDAEA CAPTA ISRAEL LIBERATA



Reverse

1958



Obverse



Reverse



Reverse



Obverse

Reverse

1963

